

Application No. 09/231,114

a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and
a controller controlling the terminals via the network;
at least two of the terminals, as designated by a user, each including an
information obtaining means for automatically obtaining information on the other terminals
therefrom, and a transmitting means for transmitting to the controller information on the each
terminal and the information obtained about the other terminals by the information obtaining
means;

the controller including a selecting means for selecting one of the at least two
terminals, a requesting means for requesting the transmitting means of the terminal selected
by the selecting means to transmit to the controller the information on all the interconnected
terminals, and a switching means for switching from the selected terminal to the other or
another of the at least two terminals.

8. (Amended) A network system comprising:

a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and
a control computer controlling the terminals via the network;
at least one of the terminals, as designated by a user, including a controller for
automatically obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom and transmitting the
obtained information on the other terminals and information on the at least one terminal to
the computer.

11. (Amended) A user-designated terminal for connecting via a network to a
plurality of other terminals, the user-designated terminal comprising:

an information obtaining means for automatically obtaining information on the
other terminals therefrom; and

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a transmitting means for transmitting to the network information on the user-designated terminal and information obtained about the other terminals by the information obtaining means.

15. (Amended) A process for controlling by means of a controller connected to a network a plurality of terminals connected to the network, the process comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the terminals;

causing the selected terminal to automatically obtain information on the other terminals; and

causing the selected terminal to transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the selected terminal to the controller.

17. (Amended) A recording medium that stores a program for execution by a controller in a network system including a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network and controlled by the controller via the network,

at least two of the terminals designated by a user being each adapted to obtain information on the other terminals therefrom, and transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the each terminal to the controller,

the program including the steps of:

selecting one of the at least two terminals; and

requesting the selected terminal to transmit the information on all the terminals to the controller.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 8, 11, 15 and 17 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.